

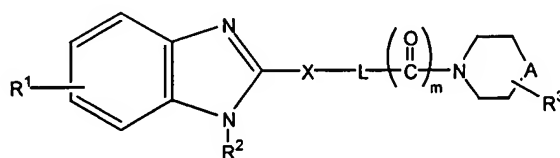
APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13 and 19 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein, R¹ represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R² represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R³ represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and A; A represents ~~O or~~ CH₂, or CH which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C₄-C₈ alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH₂CH₂O)_nCH₂CH₂ wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1.

4. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 to 3, wherein each of R¹ and R² represents a hydrogen atom.

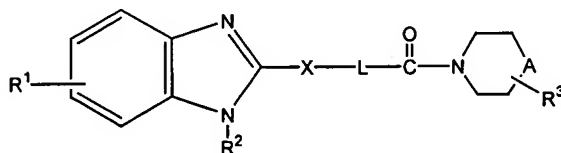
5. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein L is a C₄-C₈ alkylene group.

6. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein L is a C₅ or C₆ alkylene group.

10. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 9~~claim 7, wherein R¹³ is a functional group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an aryl group, a hydroxy group, and a cyano group.

11. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 10~~claim 7, wherein L¹ is a C₅ or C₆ alkylene group.

12. (Amended) A medicament pharmaceutical composition comprising the a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 represented by the following formula (I)



wherein, R¹ represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R² represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R³ represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and A; A represents CH₂, or CH which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C₄-C₈ alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH₂CH₂O)_nCH₂CH₂ wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutical additive.

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14. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment~~A method for the prevention and/or treatment of hyperlipidemia which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

15. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of~~A method for preventing and/or treating arteriosclerosis which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

16. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for suppressing foaming of a macrophage which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

17. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for retracting arterial sclerosis lesions which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

18. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for inhibiting formation of arterial sclerosis lesions which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

20. (Amended) ~~A method for preventive~~preventing and/or treatment~~treating~~ of arteriosclerosis, which comprises ~~the step of administering a preventively and/or therapeutically~~an effective amount of the compound a composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 claim 12 or 21 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including human.

Claim 21 is added.